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SIPDIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE FOR FAA REP

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAIR](#) [ICAO](#) [ECON](#) [TH](#)

SUBJECT: Thailand Working to Respond to FAA Report

REF: SECSTATE 159313

11. Summary: Econcouns delivered the FAA aviation safety assessment report to the Director General of the Thai Department of Civil Aviation (DCA). The DCA is fully aware of the implications of a possible downgrade to Category Two and is working to remedy the FAA-identified deficiency. The Director General reported that he expects an amendment to modernize portions of the Air Navigation Act of 1954 to pass the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) this month. He also voiced his opposition to an Airports of Thailand (AOT) plan to operate two international airports in Bangkok. End summary.

12. On December 4, Econcouns delivered reftel talking points, report, and letter to Chaisak Angkasuwan, Director General of the DCA. Chaisak said the DCA has been working hard to rectify the deficiency identified in the FAA report from last July and has proposed a meeting of the Civil Aviation Board (CAB) chaired by the Transport Minister on December 17. In this meeting, Chaisak said, the DCA will propose CAB model regulations according to the FAA and ICAO recommendations. The regulations, which address concerns raised in the FAA report, will be effective once published in the Royal Gazette, which the Director General said should happen by the end of December.

13. Chaisak also reported that today the scrutinizing committee of the NLA will finalize the amendment to Chapter 4 - Certificate of Air Worthiness and Journey Log Book - of the Air Navigation Act of 2497 B.E. (1954 C.E.). The bill will then be forwarded to the NLA for the second and third reading and is expected to pass by the end of this year. Chaisak said the amendments to the Air Navigation Act will serve to enhance Thailand's modern aviation business including aviation products certification.

14. Chaisak also noted that he is opposed to a proposal by AOT to re-open Don Muang Airport to international flights. On this issue, he agrees with the Thai Transport Minister, THAI Airways, and United Airlines, all of whom have stated publicly that the new Suvaranabhumi Airport should be upgraded to operate all international flights out of Bangkok.

Boyce